

4 March 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Logistics Services Division, OL

SUBJECT : Methanol/Gasoline Project

1. The Motor Pool Branch is conducting a test project to determine the advantages of using a 10% mixture of methanol in the fuel in 2 Agency sedans. A newspaper report which is attached, states that several organizations have had favorable results with a mixture of methanol and gasoline. This report is the basis for our test project. This project was initiated on 27 February 1975 with a staff meeting in my office. Those in attendance were

STATINTL [redacted] The procedures and instructions for conducting this test were agreed upon by all in attendance. Following is a report of the highlights of this meeting:

a. The objective is to determine if a 10% mixture of methanol in gasoline will increase gasoline mileage, and improve engine performance. Emission reduction cannot be measured by us, but we can be alert to any obvious side effects, such as "dieseling," or engine knocking.

b. The highest priority is safety. Methanol is very flammable and refueling of vehicles and working with 55 gallon drums of fuel is much more dangerous than normal refueling at a gas pump. A fire would cause serious injury and obviously cancel the program. A 15 lb. CO₂ fire extinguisher will be located in the proximity of the barrels.

STATINTL c. [redacted] will procure 55 gallons of methanol and 3 new barrel pumps that can be padlocked and have filler hoses and nozzles identical to those at the Headquarters gas pumps.

STATINTL d. Two sedans will be used for the test. One is a 1974 Satellite, V-8, 318 C.I.D., with 5,000 miles on the speedometer and driven by [redacted] The other is a 1970 Ford, V-8, 351 C.I.D., with 59,000 miles on the speedometer, and driven by [redacted] Each vehicle will be assigned one specific drum for the mixture for it's exclusive use. The names will be painted on the drums.

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e. [] will obtain 2 drums that are absolutely clean and mount them on pallets for easy handling by the forklift.

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f. [] will use a 5 gallon container calibrated by the Bureau of Standards to measure the methanol. This is the only time a funnel will be used in the process. The barrel will then be forklifted to the gas pump where 50.0 gallons of gasoline will be added.

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g. Both cars will have locking gas caps and the keys will be in the custody of the Shop Foreman to preclude unauthorized addition of any fuel. STATINTL

h. Accurate records of mileage and fuel issued will be maintained by [] and [] will calculate present gasoline mileage for the 2 sedans from current records over the last 3 months. He will also calculate the gasoline mileage for 3 other identical 1974 Satellites, and for 6 other 1970 Ford sedans all of which are used in the PVS.

i. The 1970 Ford will be given a thorough engine tune up which will include an electronic ignition conversion kit, and a new rotor, distributor cap, vacuum advance unit, spark plugs wires, spark plugs and, carburetor cleaning and adjustment.

j. It is estimated that it will take atleast 6 weeks to use the mixture at the present rate of consumption.

3. It is my intention to submit interim reports during the test, and I will submit complete details and statistics upon completion of the project. STATINTL

[]
Chief, Motor Pool Branch, LSD/OL

Distribution:

Orig. - Addressee
1 - OL/LSD/MPB